



September 19, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am emphatically supporting the bill that would cease the current ban on sideline photography at NFL games for local stations.

Having worked 17 years in the Detroit market, covering the Detroit Lions weekly, home and away---I can tell you that the ability to write to your own pictures and tell a story is the lifeblood of a television reporter, at least a decent one.

In addition, isolation video of certain players not otherwise shown on a network telecast or in a postgame pool feed now becomes impossible. For instance, in my years in Detroit and even now in Lansing, I have compiled a yearly isolation video reel of just about every player on the Lions. With the current ban of our right to shoot OUR OWN video in this public environment, I can no longer do that.

Which means, the NFL is suggesting the quarterback and runningback is more important than the right guard or right tackle, of which I have compiled extensive video of over the years simply shooting isolation of these lesser-known players during a contest. This is a ludicrous suggesting in the ultimate team sport.

The argument that we can't shoot ground-level isolation in other major sports doesn't hold water. In the other major sports, you are going to GET good video of every player involved by the nature of the sport. In football, the only way to get video of more than 50 percent of the players on the field at one time is to isolate your camera on that player.

Again, ground-level video for football is our lifeblood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred R. Heumann". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Fred Heumann
WLNS-TV
Sports Director
Lansing, Michigan